

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A cowl assembly comprising:
  - a base;
  - a twist ring mounted to said base, said twist ring defining an axis, said twist ring being rotatable relative to said base about said axis, between a primary orientation and a secondary orientation;
  - a cover removably attached to said base;
  - a cowl coupled to said cover, said cowl engaging said twist ring, said cowl being pivotable with said twist ring between said primary and secondary orientations, said twist ring blocking said cowl from pivoting beyond said primary and secondary orientations to a overtravel orientation, wherein said cowl is freely removable from said cover.
2. The cowl assembly of claim 1 wherein said twist ring is internal to said cowl.
3. The cowl assembly of claim 1 further comprising a coverglass held by and rotatable with said cowl.
4. The cowl assembly of claim 1 wherein said base further comprises a camera frame and a holder joined to said camera frame.
5. The cowl assembly of claim 1 further comprising a lens barrel engaging said twist ring, said lens barrel being disposed in an extended position relative to said base when said twist ring is in said primary orientation, said lens barrel being disposed in a retracted orientation relative to said base when said twist ring is in said secondary orientation.
6. The cowl assembly of claim 1 wherein said cover and said cowl are each a one-piece plastic casting.

7. A cowl assembly comprising:

a base;

a lens barrel mounted to said base, said barrel being rotatable relative to said base through a first range of orientations;

a cover attached to said base, said cover having an opening aligned with said barrel, said cover being releaseable to separate said cover from said base;

a cowl encircling said opening, said cowl being manually pivotable about said optical axis with said lens barrel, only within said first range of orientations, when said cover is attached to said base, said cowl being manually pivotable about said optical axis, relative to said base, into a second range of orientations beyond said first range, when said cover is separated from said base, said cowl being retained by said cover in said first range of orientations, said cowl being freely removable from said cover in said second range of orientations.

8. The cowl assembly of claim 7 wherein one of said cowl and said cover has a plurality of tabs, the other of said cowl and said cover has a plurality of shelves, and said tabs each overlap against a respective one of said shelves when said lens barrel and said cowl are in said first and second orientations.

9. A cowl assembly comprising:

a base defining an optical axis;

a lens module joined to said base, said lens module having an input part rotating about said optical axis, relative to said base, through a first range of orientations, said lens module having a barrel moving along said optical axis between extended and retracted positions responsive to said rotating of said input part;

a cover removably attached to said base;

a cowl encircling said optical axis, said cowl being pivotable through said first range of orientations with said input part, said cowl being blocked by said input part from pivoting, relative to said base, into a second range

of orientations beyond said first range, said cowl being slidably engaged by said cover in said first range of orientations, said cowl being disengaged from said cover in said second range of orientations.

10. The cowl assembly of Claim 9 wherein said cowl and said cover have one or more tabs and one or more shelves, said tabs each overlapping against a respective one of said shelves when said lens barrel and said cowl are in said first range of orientations.

11. The cowl assembly of claim 10 wherein said pivoting of said cowl blocked by said input part is in a first direction of rotation about said optical axis; and said shelves each have a closed end and an open end, said closed ends blocking pivoting of said cowl, in a second direction of rotation about said optical axis, beyond said first range of orientations into said second range of orientations, said second direction of rotation being opposite said first direction of rotation.

12. The cowl assembly of claim 10 wherein said tabs subtend a lesser angular dimension relative to said optical axis, than each of said shelves.

13. The cowl assembly of claim 10 wherein said cover has said tabs and said cowl has said shelves.

14. The cowl assembly of claim 10 wherein said tabs and said shelves are disengaged in said second range of orientations.

15. The cowl assembly of Claim 9 wherein said cowl has a circumferential wall and a forward rim joined to said circumferential wall, said forward rim being disposed opposite said base, said forward rim extending radially inward from said circumferential wall toward said optical axis.

16. The cowl assembly of Claim 15 wherein said barrel is disposed interior to said forward rim in said extended and retracted positions.

17. The cowl assembly of claim 9 wherein said barrel extends axially outward relative to said forward rim in said extended position.

18. The cowl assembly of Claim 9 wherein said cover and said cowl are each a one-piece plastic casting.

19. The cowl assembly of claim 9 wherein said base further comprises a camera frame and a holder joined to said camera frame.

20. The cowl assembly of claim 19 wherein said lens module has a band disposed encircling said holder, said band being internal to said cowl, said input part protruding radially outward from said band.